



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 4

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2010-2011

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

Roads and Western Sydney

Thursday 16 September 2010

Answers to be lodged by: Tuesday 12 October 2010

Budget Estimates Secretariat

Telephone 9230 3528

Fax 9230 2981

budget.estimateds@parliament.nsw.gov.au

| Hearing date | Portfolio | Answer to be lodged by |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 15 September 2010 | Fair Trading | 12 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 15 September 2010 | Arts | 12 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 15 September 2010 | Housing | 12 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 15 September 2010 | Small Business | 12 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 15 September 2010 | Veteran's Affairs | 12 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 15 September 2010 | Planning | 12 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 15 September 2010 | Infrastructure | 12 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 15 September 2010 | Lands | 12 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 16 September 2010 | Transport | 13 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 16 September 2010 | Central Coast | 13 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 16 September 2010 | Roads | 13 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 16 September 2010 | Western Sydney | 13 October 2010 [21 days] |

Questions relating to the portfolio of Roads

16 September 2010, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Questions from Ms Gardiner

RTA Projects

In relation to RTA road projects in NSW which were carried out during 2009/10 and 2010/11 year-to-date, what is the average cost from all projects for the following:

1. The construction of 1km of dual carriageway highway above ground?
 2. The construction of 1km of dual carriageway highway in the form of tunnelling?
 3. The construction of 100m of dual carriageway highway in the form of in bridge (with integrated safety barriers) over both waterways and deep cuttings?
 4. The construction of 100m of noise wall?
 5. The construction of a typical two-way highway interchange?
 6. The construction of 1km of single-lane slip road?
 7. The process of conducting one metre of deep cutting of terrain?
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2. What are the current cost estimates and expected dates of completion (broken into stages, where relevant) for the following RTA projects:
 8. The upgrade of the Princes Highway between Gerringong and Bombaderry?
 9. The upgrade of the Great Western Highway:
 - a) The sections currently under construction?
 - b) The planned Mount Victoria to Lithgow section?
 10. The upgrade of the Pacific Highway:
 - a) The sections currently under construction?
 - b) The sections for which planning is underway?
 11. The link between the F3 and M2?
 12. The upgrade of the M5 motorway?
 13. Construction of the M4 East?

Windsor Bridge

In relation to the replacement of Windsor Bridge:

14. When will construction commence?
15. When is construction due to be complete?
16. Is that timeframe compatible with public safety in the light of the safety audit that the RTA conducted on the existing bridge?
17. What is the total estimated cost?
18. Have you received representations from Member for Riverstone John Aquilina in relation to the replacement of Windsor Bridge?
 - a) If so, can you please summarise the content of those representations?
19. Have you received representations from Member for Londonderry Allan Shearan in relation to the replacement of Windsor Bridge?
 - a) If so, can you please summarise the content of those representations?

North Richmond Bridge

In relation to North Richmond Bridge:

20. How much money been allocated to investigating options for the upgrade of North Richmond Bridge?
21. Are there plans for the upgrade of North Richmond Bridge?

- a) If so, please provide:
 - i. The total estimated cost
 - ii. Expected commencement date
 - iii. Estimated completion date
- 22. Has the RTA undertaken any community consultation about traffic congestion in and around North Richmond?
- 23. Has the RTA undertaken any community consultation about options for the upgrade of North Richmond Bridge?
- 24. Have you received representations from Member for Londonderry Allan Shearan in relation to the possible upgrading of North Richmond Bridge? If so, can you please summarise the content of those representations?

Picton Road

In relation to Picton Road:

- 25. Why was there no line item in the 2010-11 infrastructure statement referring to Picton Road upgrades?
- 26. Can you provide a breakdown of funding sources for the \$25 million Picton Road upgrade?
- 27. When will the upgrade work be complete?
- 28. At the completion of the upgrades how many additional kilometres of Picton Road will be dual carriageway?
- 29. At the completion of the upgrades how many additional kilometres of Picton Road will be divided roadway?
- 30. How many fatal accidents have been recorded on Picton Road since 2000?
- 31. How many accidents involving an injury have been recorded on Picton Road since 2000?
- 32. For the years 2000 through to 2010 can you please provide an annual breakdown of total vehicle movements on Picton Road?
- 33. For the years 2000 through to 2010 can you please provide an annual breakdown of total truck movements on Picton Road?

In relation to Picton Road:

- 34. Given that NSW police has told the media on 17/09/10 following the 22nd death on the road this decade that the accident “could have been prevented with median barriers in place to divide the road”. When is it expected that the construction of median barriers along the worst black spots on Picton Road will be completed?
- 35. Given that the most recent accident occurred at the Mt Ousley end of Picton Road rather than the Wilton end, does the RTA plan to install more median barriers along black spots at the Mt Ousley end?

Riverstone Rail Overpass

In relation to the Riverstone Rail Overpass:

- 36. Money for planning has appeared in successive budgets from 2007-08 to 2010-11. Can you please detail exactly what planning work has been undertaken over these four years?
- 37. Why has planning for the Riverstone Rail Overpass taken four years to date?
- 38. When are plans for the Riverstone Rail Overpass due to be complete?
- 39. When will construction of the Riverstone Rail Overpass commence?
- 40. What is the total estimated cost of the Riverstone Rail Overpass?
- 41. Have you received representations from Member for Riverstone John Aquilina in relation to the Riverstone Rail Overpass?
 - a) If so, can you please summarise the content of those representations

Stanhope Parkway

In relation to Stanhope Parkway:

42. When will Stanhope Parkway be opened to traffic?
43. Given the road was complete in 2009, why has it remained blocked off?

In relation to the 'Mulgoa electorate' roads funding breakdown:

44. How will the \$140,000 for councils to maintain local road networks be split between Penrith and Liverpool Local Government Areas?
45. How much funding was provided to councils in the Mulgoa electorate to maintain their local road networks in 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10?
46. Given the projected population increase in Penrith and Liverpool Local Government Areas, which have been designated as Growth Centre Councils, what are the projections for additional funding to councils in the Mulgoa electorate to maintain their local road networks in 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15?

Princes Highway

In relation to the Princes Highway:

47. Given the announcement by the NSW Government that the Gerringong to Bomaderry Princes Highway upgrade will be a Part 3A major project, can the Government outline a start and end date for the project?
48. Why has the Government failed to provide funds for road construction for the Gerringong to Bomaderry upgrade in this budget?
49. Why has the Government continued to defer a possible start date for the Gerringong to Bomaderry upgrade?
50. How many consultation meetings and on what dates have been held with Gerringong residents in relation to access arrangements for residents living along the proposed route alignment for the Gerringong to Bomaderry upgrade?
51. How many people attended each consultation meeting that has been held with Gerringong residents in relation to access arrangements for residents living along the proposed route alignment for the Gerringong to Bomaderry upgrade?
52. Why has Princes Highway funding been cut from \$144 million in 2008-09 to \$62 million in 2010/11?

Tongarra Road Pedestrian Fence

In relation to the Tongarra Road pedestrian fence in Albion Park:

53. How much did the erection of the fence cost?
54. How many community consultation meetings and on what dates, were held before the fence was erected?
55. Is the Government preparing to roll out more fences, such as the Tongarra Road Fence? If so, please advise in which locations?

North Nowra Link Road

In relation to the North Nowra Link Road:

56. Why has the NSW Government delayed the North Nowra Link Road project?
57. What is the total cost of consultants' reports involved in this project?
58. What additional information has been requested of Shoalhaven City Council by the DECCW as part of the 3A planning process, and why?
59. When is the project expected to commence?
60. When is the project scheduled for completion?
61. What is the total estimated cost for the project?

Newell Highway

62. Given a study by the RTA found the Newell Highway had 29km of road listed as being in 'poor' condition:
63. Does the NSW Government have any plans to fix this stretch of the Newell Highway?
 - a) If yes, please provide estimate cost, expected date of commencement and expected date of completion.
 - b) If no, why not?
64. Given that the introduction of rumble strip markings and a reduction in the speed limit could not be regarded as repair works to the section of the road listed as 'poor', do you agree that such measures represent nothing more than band-aid solutions?
65. Do you believe upgrading the road will decrease the accident rate on this stretch of road?
66. Do you think more overtaking lanes are needed on the Newell Highway?
 - a) If no, why not?
67. Will the Government commit to more overtaking lanes for the Newell Highway?
 - a) If no, why not?

Monaro Electorate Funding

68. In relation to roads funding in the Monaro electorate:
69. Please provide the total amount expended on capital works (broken down into individual projects and costs) in the roads portfolio in the Monaro electorate for the following years:
 - a) 2007
 - b) 2008
 - c) 2009
 - d) 2010
70. Please provide the amount of planned expenditure on capital works What funds were expended on capital works in the (broken down into individual projects and costs) in the roads portfolio in the Monaro electorate for the following years:
 - a) 2011
 - b) 2012
 - c) 2013

Port Macquarie Electorate Funding

In relation to roads funding in the Port Macquarie electorate:

71. Please provide the total amount expended on capital works (broken down into individual projects and costs) in the roads portfolio in the Port Macquarie electorate for the following years:
 - a) 2007
 - b) 2008
 - c) 2009
 - d) 2010
72. Please provide the amount of planned expenditure on capital works What funds were expended on capital works in the (broken down into individual projects and costs) in the roads portfolio in the Port Macquarie electorate for the following years:
 - a) 2011
 - b) 2012
 - c) 2013

Great Western Highway

In relation to the Great Western Highway:

73. How much money has the Government spent on the upgrade of the highway over the last 15 years? Please provide the amount spent in each year, broken down into stage of upgrade where relevant.

74. What is the estimated cost of the promised upgrade of the highway between Emu Plains and Katoomba?
75. What was the original timeframe for the completion of these upgrades when they were first announced?
76. What are the expected commencement and completion dates for the promised upgrade of the highway between Emu Plains and Katoomba?
77. What is the estimated cost of the promised upgrade of the highway between Katoomba and Lithgow?
78. What was the original timeframe for the completion of these upgrades when they were first announced?
79. What are the expected commencement and completion dates for the promised upgrade of the highway between Katoomba and Lithgow?

Mitchell Highway

In relation to the Mitchell Highway:

80. Does the Government have any current plans to upgrade the highway at Guanna Hill, approximately six kilometres east of Molong?
 - a) If so, what are the expected dates of commence and completion of this upgrade?
 - b) If so, what is the estimated cost of this upgrade?

M5 Expansion

In relation to the M5 Expansion Project:

81. Given that the RTA's M5 Corridor expansion website promotes that the expansion will significantly improve travel times if built, and alternatively would worsen travel times if not built, does the Minister agree that there is a clear need for the expansion?
82. Does the Minister agree that the following statement made by David Campbell, in relation to the now abandoned Tempe tunnel section of the M5 expansion – "[t]he road location shown in the feasibility study is only one suggestion" – tends to the conclusions that at the time of the announcement, the RTA believed that the Tempe tunnel was the best option available for the M5 expansion?
 - a) If not, does the Minister agree that it seems irrational in the first instance to announce the Tempe tunnel in the feasibility study, if it in fact was not the best option available?
83. After deciding to cancel the Tempe tunnel option earlier this year, you made the following statement: "[t]he State Government has heeded the Tempe community's objections to M5 East proposals that involved dissecting Tempe Reserve" – do you agree that this statement indicates that the decision was made by the State Government in unison, or was this decision in fact made on the basis of your own concerns regarding the option?
84. Can the Minister confirm whether he, his predecessor, any member of his/his predecessor's staff or any RTA officer has:
 - a) Met with any members of the Tempe community in relation to the M5 Expansion?
 - b) Attended any community meetings regarding the Tempe tunnel?
 - c) Met with any members of the community group Tempe 2020 to discuss the Tempe Tunnel.
 - d) If so, what was the nature of the Government's discussions during each of these meetings?
85. If this was a State Government decision, as the Minister's statement suggests, can the Minister explain why the NSW Government waited to announce the cancellation of the Tempe tunnel option in August 2010, when the Tempe community's displeasure with this option has been extremely vocal, and has generated considerable press coverage since late 2009?+

86. The cumulative effect of all of these factors suggests that the Minister has time his announcement to cancel the Tempe tunnel in such a way as to provide beneficial to the re-election of the Federal Labor Government. Does the Minister agree that this is the case?
 - a) If no, what reasons did the NSW Labor Government consider in deciding to cancel the Tempe tunnel option?
87. Can the Minister outline the nature of his office's collaboration with the Federal member for Grayndler in relation to the Tempe Tunnel?
88. Is the Minister satisfied that his actions do not represent the sacrificing of the infrastructure commitments designed to improve the experiences of M5 commuters purely for the benefit of the struggling Federal Labor Government in the middle of its election campaign?
89. Prior to the NSW Minister for roads announcing the scrapping of the Tempe tunnel option for the M5 Expansion project, the same announcement was made by the Federal Transport Minister and Labor Member for Grayndler, Anthony Albanese. Why did a Federal Government Minister make such a significant announcement on what is largely a state Government matter?
90. Given that Minister Albanese stated that any extension of the M5 through Tempe Reserve was "an impractical option that...should not have been considered", can you explain the extent of Minister Albanese's influence in the decision to not pursue any expansion of the M5 through the Tempe Reserve?
91. Given Minister Albanese clear involvement in the decision to not pursue expansion through the Tempe Reserve, what alternative route is the RTA considering as a substitute, and approximately how much more is it envisaged that this route would cost the NSW taxpayer?
92. Given that Minister Albanese has stated that the State and Federal Government are "united" in opposing any expansion of the M5 through the Tempe, why did it take the nearly 12 months after the initial announcement of the proposed M5 Expansion route for the Minister for Roads to announce that the NSW Labor Government did not support this option?
93. On what basis is Minister Albanese's and your own attempts deflection onto the RTA of the decision to route the M5 expansion through Tempe Reserve able to withstand the fact that the RTA is ultimately responsible to you, as the NSW Minister for Roads, and that the Office of the NSW Minister of Roads had nearly 12 months to direct the RTA to amend its proposal, but failed to exercise this power until the middle of a Federal Election campaign after sensing that the unpopular decision could affect Labor candidates in vulnerable inner-west seats?
94. Given that the M5 East expansion has been on the NSW Labor Government's agenda for 15 years, do you agree that it is a damning indictment on the ability of the NSW Labor Government to deliver on infrastructure investments in NSW when after all these years, Infrastructure Australia still do not regard the M5 East Project as being 'ready to proceed'?
95. What guidance did Infrastructure Australia give to the NSW Government as to which criteria remain outstanding before the M5 East will be classified as 'ready to proceed'?
96. Of the \$4 billion which the NSW Government valued the M5 East project in its submission, how much of this amount did the NSW Government seek from the Federal Government in its submission?
97. What guidance did Infrastructure Australia give as to the amount of funding it would be willing to contribute to the M5 East project, should it reach classification as 'ready to proceed'?

F3 Congestion

In relation to F3 traffic congestion:

98. A seminar held in June 2009 between several NSW emergency service organisations in relation to crisis management on the F3 freeway had the stated goal of providing 'information on new strategies and procedures'. What involvement did the office of the Minister for Roads have in regards to:
 - a) Providing information to the seminar?
 - b) Receiving a report on the outcome of the seminar?

99. The material released under FOI by the NSWFB explicitly referred to past major disruptions on the F3, and recommended that the Minister for Emergency Services be notified of the seminar. Was the Office of the Minister for Roads notified of this seminar by any RTA departmental staff or by the NSWFB?
- a) If no, do you agree with the conclusion that this is damning evidence of the woeful lack of inter-departmental communication and collaboration, which has become the hallmark of the NSW Labor Government?
100. Given that the Minister for Emergency Services was notified of this seminar, did the Office of the Minister for Emergency Services contact the Office of the Minister for Roads in any manner that alerted your office to the fact that this seminar was being held?
- a) If no, what does this fact say about the appalling lack of communication between NSW Labor Government Ministers?
101. Even if your Office was not directly notified by the NSWFB or the Minister for Emergency Services, do you agree that the fact that emails from senior RTA officers involved in organising the seminar, and the fact that a senior RTA official was invited to speak at the event, would mean that your Office would have some inkling of knowledge about this event?
- a) If yes, and you did not attend, why not? Did your Office not regard this as being sufficient warning that attendance by the Minister or his staff might be prudent?
- b) If no representatives from the Minister's Office attended the seminar, does the Minister agree that this was a significant error of judgment, given the value of having over 50 representatives from several emergency service agencies present together, discussing potential collaborative efforts on a matter which has been at the attention of the NSW Government for some time?
102. The agenda for the seminar indicates that senior officers of the NSW police and RTA spoke specifically about the contra-flow plan for the F3. Was the Minister's office advised of any potential deficiencies in the contra-flow plan that the two officers may have mentioned?
103. A copy of the presentation indicates that the central aspect of improving traffic after an accident on the F3 involves clearing the accident as quickly as possible. Given this directive, can the Minister advise of the exact deficiencies in the crisis response plans for accidents on the F3 that completely eradicated its effectiveness?

M4 East

In relation to the M4 East:

104. The proposed construction of the M4 East has been mooted, but never pursued by numerous figures in the NSW Labor Government over the years, including former Roads Ministers Carl Scully and Michael Daley, and former Premiers Morris Iemma and Nathan Rees. Since being installed as Premier, has Kristina Keneally or her Roads Minister made any requests of the RTA to provide updates on the M4 East project, be that in the form of current costing estimates, impact statements or any other studies relating to the project?
105. Has the RTA submitted any documentation in relation to the M4 East to Cabinet in the last 12 months?

If yes, what was the general nature of the requests for documentation made by Cabinet, the Premier, or the Roads Minister, and what did the RTA actually supply them in response to the request?

Are you aware of any correspondence between the NSW Government and the Federal Government in relation to joint funding of the M4 East project in the last 12 months?

- a) If yes, what was the content of this correspondence?
106. Do you agree that the benefits of a potential announcement by Government of a definite commitment of funds and a release of an expected construction commencement date for the M4 East would be likely to have a significant effect on Sydney residents?
- a) If yes, do you think that potentially, such an announcement would be likely to influence voters?

- b) If no, why not?
107. Given that Treasury documents have revealed that the NSW Labor Government, which from numerous opinion polls published is on the nose with the electorate, has stashed \$364 million in forward estimates for the M4 East project, do you agree that it could be implied on the face value of all these factors that Labor is holding off on announcing this project until closer to the election date to influence voters?
- a) If not, on what basis would you disagree with this assessment, given that the NSW Labor Government has had over 15 years to build the M4 East?
108. Premier Kristina Keneally recently spoke on 2GB and claimed that projects such as Western Sydney roads are "too important to be political footballs". Do you agree that the Premier has completely contradicted herself if she has been consulted by the RTA on the M4 East project, and has set aside funding, but is holding out to publicly announce until the election?

Richmond Road

In relation to the proposed upgrade of intersections on Richmond Road:

Representations made by the RTA (Ref: M10/4186) stated:

"The RTA has a long term proposal to upgrade Richmond Road at its intersections with The Northern Road at Berkshire Park and George Street at Bligh Park, which involves a deviations of the Northern Road"

109. What is the exact nature of the RTA's proposal for this upgrade of Richmond Road?
110. When did the RTA submit this proposal to the Minister's Office?
111. When will budget funding be made available for this project?
112. When is the last time that the RTA discussed this proposed upgrade with the Minister?
113. What is the estimated cost for the completion of this upgrade?
114. How many accidents have occurred at these intersections in 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11 (year to date)?
115. What is the RTA's most recent assessment of traffic flow volumes at these two intersections?
116. Given that both Richmond Road and The Northern Road are heavily used by commuters and businesses and represent vital road link in Western Sydney, what traffic management plans do the RTA have in place to ensure that commuters are not unduly delayed during construction of the proposed upgrades?
117. In the interim period before the commencement of construction of the upgrade, what measures do the RTA intend to implement at the intersection to improve the flow of traffic and to reduce the number of accidents?

Mobile Speed Cameras

In relation to mobile speed cameras:

118. How many people do you envisage to be captured each month by the new mobile speed cameras?
119. How much revenue would this raise each month?
120. Considering that mobile speed cameras are not usually operated during normal office hours, are the operators on overtime rates?
121. Would you think that a sign saying 'SLOW DOWN - High Accident Area' would do far more than a hidden speed camera?
122. What evidence did you rely on that the introduction of mobile speed cameras would be more effective in reducing the road toll than signs and/or education?
123. What are the Key Performance Indicators identified by the Roads and Traffic Authority for Redflex Systems?
124. Is the Minister concerned that many fines issued by Redflex Systems will go unpaid because, like what happened in the USA, drivers know they have a good shot at getting away with ignoring them, which in turn would not raise the \$570 million in 2011-12 as predicted?

125. Were you aware of the problems Redflex has experienced in the USA?
 - a) Who told you this wouldn't happen in NSW?
 - b) What evidence did you rely on that this would not happen in NSW?
 - c) If it does happen, what mechanisms are there in place to ensure that this issue is resolved?
126. What happens to the mobile speed cameras overnight? Where are they stored?
127. Can the Minister confirm what guidelines there are in place for positioning the mobile speed cameras?

In relation to mobile speed cameras:

128. Since the commencement of the full enforcement period, how many motorists have been caught speeding?

In relation to mobile speed camera infringements:

129. How many infringement notices have been issued since the introduction of the program to date?
130. How many fines have been paid without challenge since the introduction of the program to date?
131. How many infringement notices have been challenged since the introduction of the program to date?
132. How many infringement notices have been successfully challenged since the introduction of the program to date?
133. Have any Redflex operators been called to give evidence in court in relation to a mobile speed camera infringement?
 - a) If yes, on how many occasions have Redflex operators been called to give such evidence?
 - b) If yes, on how many occasions have Redflex operators given evidence in court?

"I Promise" Campaign

In relation to the "I Promise" Campaign (New Young Driver Committee):

134. Have you established a new road safety advisory committee in regards to reducing the number of p-plate crashes on our roads?
 - a) If not, why not?
 - b) If yes, what is the name of the committee? Can the Minister confirm whether you or any of your predecessor(s), or your staff or a RTA representative has attended a meeting with this committee?

Vehicle Standards Information

In relation to Vehicle Standards Information (VSI) No 50 Raising and lowering vehicles:

135. What is the start date of VSI 50?
136. Is there a transition arrangement?
137. What amendments will be made to VSI 50?
138. Has community consultation taken place?

Road Closures

In relation to road closures:

139. How many road closures occurred on NSW roads which were attributable to some form of unexpected error (e.g. burst pipes, human error in construction works, large crashed etc.) in:
 - a) 2007/08?
 - b) 2008/09?
 - c) 2009/10?
 - d) 2010/11 year-to-date?

140. Of those road closes that occurred on NSW roads, what was the average period of time that the road was closed for in:
 - a) 2007/08?
 - b) 2008/09?
 - c) 2009/10?
 - d) 2010/11 year-to-date?
141. What was the average cost of repairing/cleaning up roads which had been closed due to some form of error in:
 - a) 2007/08?
 - b) 2008/09?
 - c) 2009/10?
 - d) 2010/11 year-to-date?
142. Where the road closure was the result of human error in maintaining the road or engaging in construction works on the road, did the RTA conduct a report into what was the ultimate cause underlying the need to close the road?
143. Where the road closure was the result of private contractor error in maintaining the road or engaging in construction works on the road, did the RTA recover any compensation from the private contractor? Please provide amounts for:
 - a) 2007/08?
 - b) 2008/09?
 - c) 2009/10?
 - d) 2010/11 year-to-date?

Speed Cameras

In relation to speed cameras in NSW:

144. Has the speed-measuring device of every speed camera in NSW been inspected at least once in the past 12 months?
145. This question is directed to the Minister: Have you or your office received up-to-date certification for the speed-measuring devices of all speed cameras in NSW?
146. Does the RTA have up-to-date certification for the speed-measuring devices of all speed cameras in NSW?
147. If, before paying a fine, a motorist in receipt of a speeding fine requests certification that the speed-measuring device of that particular camera has been inspected in the 12 months before the date of the alleged infringement, is that certification provided to them?
 - a) How many such requests did the RTA receive in 2008/2009, 2009/2010 and the current financial year to date?
 - b) How many requests were granted in 2008/2009, 2009/2010 and the current financial year to date?

Co-operation With State Debt Recovery Office

In relation to co-operation with the State Debt Recovery Office:

148. What is the average number of working days from the date of a speeding or traffic offence that the RTA's relevant material is transmitted to the SDRO?
149. Has any work been done by the RTA to investigate ways to issue fines more quickly?
 - a) If yes, what investigation has taken place and what has been the outcome of it?
 - b) If no, does the RTA have plans to investigate ways to issue fines more quickly?
150. If yes, what are those plans?

Aerial Enforcement Program

151. In relation to the aerial enforcement program:
152. What assistance has the RTA provided to the Police?
153. Has the RTA provided any funding?
 - a) If yes, how much funding was provided?
 - b) If yes, what aspects of the aerial enforcement program was the funding for?
154. How many times has the RTA received reports on aerial enforcement operations?
155. On what dates has the RTA received reports on aerial enforcement operations?
156. On what date/s did the RTA identify locations for operations?

Crash Statistics

In relation to RTA Crash Statistics:

157. On what date was the 2008 Road Traffic Crashes in NSW Statistical Statement published?
158. Has the 2009 Road Traffic Crashes in NSW Statistical Statement been completed?
 - a) If yes, when will it be publicly available on the RTA website?
 - b) If no, when will it be completed and subsequently made available on the RTA website?

M5 East Tunnel

159. How many times has the M5 East Tunnel closed eastbound due to unplanned maintenance or traffic incident(s) in the following financial years:
 - a) 2006/2007?
 - b) 2007/2008?
 - c) 2008/2009?
 - d) 2009/2010?
160. How many times has the M5 East Tunnel closed westbound due to unplanned maintenance or traffic incident(s) in the following financial years:
 - a) 2006/2007?
 - b) 2007/2008?
 - c) 2008/2009?
 - d) 2009/2010?
161. How many times (both eastbound and westbound) has the M5 East Tunnel closed due to air quality incident(s) in the following financial years:
 - a) 2006/2007?
 - b) 2007/2008?
 - c) 2008/2009?
 - d) 2009/2010?
162. How many times (both eastbound and westbound) has the M5 East Tunnel closed due to unplanned maintenance or traffic incident(s) in peak hour in the following financial years:
 - a) 2006/2007?
 - b) 2007/2008?
 - c) 2008/2009?
 - d) 2009/2010?

Bangalow Interchange

163. What notice is taken of the view of local residents and businesses in your Department's consideration of project proposals such as the Tintabar to Ewingsdale Pacific Highway upgrade, specifically the Bangalow interchange which was not in the original proposal put before the RTA's community consultation groups and now has a 1015 person petition against it?
164. Does your Department have any plans to review the decision to build the Bangalow interchange even though it adds millions of dollars more to the cost of the project, essentially is a duplication of what's already there, and the great majority of the Bangalow community don't want it as

amplified by an anti-Bangalow interchange petition signed by 1015 people and submitted to Parliament last May?

165. Given that RTA highway guidelines stipulate that highway interchanges should be no less than 10 kms apart:
- Why is the proposed Bangalow interchange less than half that distance from the proposed Ewingsdale interchange?
 - Why was this matter not raised in your Director-General's Environmental Assessment Report dated January 2010 under s751 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979?
166. With regards to the costing of the proposed motorway interchange at Bangalow:
167. What is the total cost of the project?
168. What is the financial cost-benefit of the interchange given that the existing highway already has an interchange and the new one is an additional cost of the new motorway?
169. How does the Minister justify this extra cost?
170. When does the Minister intend to respond to the petition of the 1015 Bangalow citizens against the proposed motorway interchange at Bangalow and their strong arguments against the interchange?
171. Given when the RTA announced plans for the T2E motorway in 2006 the project was sold to the local community on the basis that there were to be only two interchanges - one at the southern end (Ross Lane) and one at the northern end (Ewingsdale), why were those plans later amended in 2008 by adding in two additional interchanges at Bangalow and at Ivy Lane?
172. Given there were 240 objections to the T2E Ivy Lane intersection and that intersection was subsequently dropped by the RTA, and given there were 172 objections to the Bangalow interchange yet they have been ignored:
- Why were they ignored?
 - What change in the RTA's plans can be expected from the 1,015 person petition tabled in the Legislative Council on 19 May?
 - Why was the proposed Ivy Lane interchange removed?
 - Why was the proposed Bangalow interchange left in?

Questions from Ms Faehrmann

Bike facilities for M2 Upgrade

173. On what basis was a budget of \$900,000 determined for the bicycle detour for the M2 upgrade project?
174. What design or planning work was done before the budget for the detour was determined?
175. Given previous experience in constructing bicycle detours including an understanding within the RTA of the costs of such facilities, how was it that such an inadequate budget was arrived at?
176. Does the RTA have a position that cyclists should be generally denied access to motorway shoulders?
- If so. Why?
177. Was any consideration given in relation to the M2 upgrade to utilise the motorway shoulders for cyclists?
178. Were safety features for cyclists such as grade separation or vibrational lines considered for the project?
- If not why not?

Bike Helmet Laws

179. Is the Minister aware of research that shows that the most marked decrease in head injuries occurred before mandatory helmet wearing was introduced in 1991 and that subsequent reductions in head injuries have occurred at a much lower rate and are not of the magnitude you'd expect from making all cyclists wear a helmet?
180. Is the Minister aware of research that suggests that mandatory helmet laws have the potential to reduce health benefits to the wider society by both decreasing the use of bicycles generally which then further reduces the potential for a 'safety in numbers' effect through increased use of bicycles?
181. Will the Government consider commissioning research to assess the total costs and benefits, both social and financial, for individual health, community health, the environment and the economy, relating to the current mandatory helmet regime in NSW?

If not. Why not?

Parking at Penrith Station

182. Funding for a parking building on the north side of Penrith Railway station was acquired from the Federal Govt three years ago. When will this project begin, who will construct it and how much will it cost?

Cycleways in Penrith.

183. What has the NSW government done since the Penrith By-Election (as this was a key election promise) in terms of planning and costing a network of cycleways in Penrith?
184. Is there a planning group?
- If so, who is in the group?
185. Has any funding been allocated for any action on planning a cycleway network?

Trucks in the Mountains

With the July 1992 publication of the "RTA Road Freight Strategy" [ISBN 0 7305 9908 6] via Objective 2, Strategy 2.6 "Review RTA investment analysis to address the concerns expressed by freight stakeholders (Appendix 4)" the RTA sort to accommodate the Road Freight industry calls for improved access to the state's road network for "high efficiency trucks" {B-Doubles, 4.6m high vehicles, road trains}. So for the period from the end of June 1992 to the end of June 2010:

186. How much registration income was collected by the RTA for prime-movers of articulated vehicles (semi-trailer etc.)?
187. What is the estimated income via fuel excise received from the Federal Government for the consumption of such vehicles (irrespective of said vehicle's state of registration) travelling on the roads in NSW during the same period?
188. What is to total monies (sum of previous two questions) recouped by NSW in relation to the activities of such trucks.
189. How much money has the RTA spent on road works from Hartley to Penrith?
190. How much money has the RTA spent on road works from Bell to Richmond?
191. What is the current total length of the road lanes comprised by the routes in questions c and d?
192. What was the change in total road lanes length for the roads in questions c and d over this same period from the end of June 1992 to the end of June 2010?
193. What is the current total length of all road lanes in the NSW road network maintained by the RTA?
194. What percentage does the sum of lanes length for two identified links (questions c and d) represent as portion of the state total lane lengths?
195. What is the RTA's commentary of a comparison between; total of monies spent on road works for the two identified links (c and d), with the same proportion of RTA's income attributable to the vehicles primarily using these roads?

Questions relating to the portfolio of Western Sydney

16 September 2010, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Questions from Ms Gardiner

Staffing

1. How many staff are supplied by the Department of Premier and Cabinet for the Ministry of Western Sydney at:
 - a) 1 July 2007?
 - b) 1 July 2008?
 - c) 1 July 2009?
 - d) 1 July 2010?
2. What is employment budget for Ministry of Western Sydney in the following financial years:
 - a) 1 July 2007?
 - b) 1 July 2008?
 - c) 1 July 2009?
 - d) 1 July 2010?

Western Sydney Arts Strategy

In relation to the Western Sydney Arts Strategy:

3. What is the budget for the following financial years:
 - a) 2006/2007?
 - b) 2007/2008?
 - c) 2008/2009?
 - d) 2009/2010?
 - e) 2010/2011?
4. When was the last progress report released?
5. When will the next progress report be released?

Water Supply

In relation to the region's water supply and improving water infrastructure:

6. How much has exactly been budgeted in:
 - a) 2007/2008?
 - b) 2008/2009?
 - c) 2009/2010?
 - d) 2010/2011?

Office of Western Sydney Website

In relation to the Office of Western Sydney website:

7. Does it comply with the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet circular: C2010-20 NSW Government Branding Style Guide and revised logo?
 - a) If not, why not?
8. Please provide dates of when the website was updated between 8 September 2008 and 16 June 2010.
9. Why is the website not updated regularly?
10. Does the Office of Western Sydney plan to launch a new website?

Nepean Creative Arts & Performing High School

11. In relation to Nepean Creative Arts & Performing High School:
12. What extra funding has been allocated to Nepean High to allow it to perform as a specialist Creative Arts & Performing High?
13. How does the funding, if any, for Nepean High's specialist programme compare to the seven other specialist Creative Arts & Performing Highs?
14. Has an analysis of future trends in student uptake been undertaken?
15. If so, have these been considered in forward estimates?
16. If so, has the principal been made aware of these data?